

New Bedford 2nd mo 5th 1842

Your precious letter, came to me last evening just as I was going on to the platform to speak. It is a real comfort to me to hear how heroic you are. I know that you are so, & you ^{would} not act unworthily of yourself to be childish. So far from being less ~~less~~ receivable in the work of Affection. I am more so than ever before and I derive this augmentation of strength from you. My mind is at ease, & given wholly to my business. New energies impell me, & new motions urge me to action. You asked me not long since whether, it seemed any different to go out as a husband, from going out as a single man. Yes there is all the difference which I expected there would be & more, & that difference is all on the right side. The purpose of all union is to strengthen the members, to greater pursons and and nobler efforts. It gives ambition the warmth & gentleness & refinements of love. It universalizes love and impells it beyond self. Man is an ambitious & restless being in himself. He goes ever abroad after new conquests & new fields of honor, and under the dominion of this passion, becomes selfish tyrannical & heartless. Love renders him generous, turns ambition to noble ends & inspires a noble chivalry. Woman is a being of love. Her tendency in her nature, is to centralize all goodness & beauty, & to enshrine the object of her devotion in her own bosom. Her feeling is, let us live in the bosom of eternal love - withdraw from the world into our own heaven. Ambition ~~often~~

wedded with love extends ^{its} ~~the~~ sphere of ~~the~~ ~~last~~ This
is the mystery of true marriage if there be any mys-
tery about it. I wish you could spend a day or two
here with me I want you to see some of the folks & I
want they should see you I tell them I am proud of my
wife, & am not ashamed to boast of her superiority over
all the women I ever saw. This is rather joking. I mean to
say, that I keep thinking so within myself.

Last Monday Mr Allen & myself went to visit the Alms-house
in this Town. It is a horrible sight, to behold men & women
under the pretence of charity shut up in such a place de-
prived of all social advantages, & compelled to work
receiving nothing but a miserable support for it. of if sick
& not able to labor, crowded into apartments where there
can be neither comfort, nor sympathy. These were
some of the most miserable & degraded beings imaginable,
inmates of this asylum (?) Men and women, who had won-
themselves out in the service of the ~~rich~~ who had been spo-
liated of their industry & virtue were here sent to linger
out the remainder of their lives in slavery. They are deprived
of all true social existence. The men and women are
never allowed to mix with society - not so much as
to eat together, because they have become so degraded
& brutal that such an indulgence would be abused.
And yet this is the best poor house that I ever saw.
It is built on a spacious plan - the rooms are large
and rather nice - the furniture simple, but what
there is of it, comfortable - The house is warmed with

steam throughout. Their Councily statement is the best I ever saw - It is worth venting as a sort of hint to what may be done in a combined Society. I saw poor sailors who had just returned from long whaling voyages sick & destitute of comfort, while the cargoes of oil which their ships had brought in were fastened to the stowage of the ships. I could not but feel degraded, almost as low as the poor creatures around me. I would sooner a friend of mine should die than go into even the New Bedford blind-house. Wednesday night was fearfully tempestuous and we had but a small audience. Well occupied the evening in a criticism upon the present form of Society. Last evening I spoke about 1 1/4 hours the positive side. I made a good speech even if I say it. It told upon the audience. The audience was not large but it was a good one - I cannot tell what will be the issue yet. Perhaps the immediate results will not be so great as we thought appeared at first warranted us to hope for. It is thought that there will be a full audience to night. Brisbane will be here to speak. You entreat me to come home on Monday. I should like to do so, you know clearest, if all appears right. But you must not expect me, for I think I shall have to go to Fall River. The Union will hardly like to allow my travelling expenses so many times over. I think I shall be home after visiting Fall River. Allen wants me to go to Providence before returning, but that I cannot think of doing. I shall need a clean word -

sincerely yours

But the conducting of a paper would suit me better than anything else which now offers. But this laid on the table until I can see the friends at home & the Executive Board. I am not enthusiastic as you might possibly suppose I should be. I am rather indifferent about because I have no idea our friends will spare me from the field. Love to all dearest
Thine own loving John



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Now my dearest I am not willing to hear you hint that your moving may possibly give out. It will not. You don't know how much good the kind manner, in which spoke of the Editorial business, did me - I don't prefer that position to all others. I wish to be in the place where I can do most for the cause.